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LISKEARD RURAL DISTRICT  
COUNCIL.

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THE  
ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
For the Year 1945.

LISKEARD :  
SNELL AND COWLING, PRINTERS.



# LISKEARD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

## THE ANNUAL REPORT

### OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1945.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Liskeard Rural  
District Council.*

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GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1945.

During the second quarter of the year there was an epidemic of measles and this, with cases of whooping cough during the whole year, has caused the total number of Notifiable Infectious Diseases to be higher than last year. Apart from these two diseases, the general health of the Rural District has been good.

This year saw the departure of the majority of those who had been evacuated to our area on account of enemy action.

I inspected all the children who went back in organised parties, all were in good health and happy to be rejoining their families, but many expressed a sadness in leaving the homes that had befriended them during the war years.

WATER.—During 1945, the supply of water throughout the District was satisfactory. In the twenty-one Parishes forming the Rural District there are about one hundred villages and hamlets, and of these 20 have a piped water supply, which include the larger



villages of Polruan, Polperro, St. Cleer, Tremar Coombe, St. Neot, Menheniot and Killigarth. The population served with piped water supply is about 4,500, the remainder depending upon wells, which did not fail, owing to a wet season. At the same time it is recognised that these wells cannot be relied on during dry seasons and there are doubts as to the quality of the water supplied. For this reason it is hoped that something will materialise in the formation of a comprehensive water scheme by a Joint Committee of the several interested Councils which has been considering the proposition for some time.

A sample of water from the St. Cleer water supply was analysed chemically and bacteriologically and indicated the water to be of good quality.

Samples of water from the public supply at St. Neot Village were also analysed chemically and bacteriologically and declared to be satisfactory for drinking and all domestic purposes.

None of the supplies in the District is subjected to purification treatment.

The water from both St. Cleer and St. Neot supplies have a faint acid reaction.

No cases of lead contamination have been reported during the year.

One case of possible contamination of a public water supply occurred at St. Cleer Village where it was found that a stone culvert near the source of the supply had collapsed and gave an opportunity for pollution by cattle. Pipes were then laid to replace the culvert and a new chamber constructed to provide the necessary protection.

SEWERAGE.—No extensions to public sewers were made during 1945 and those in operation were maintained satisfactorily. The need for more sewerage systems and the improvement of existing sewers and disposal

works is becoming more apparent. Without doubt these improvements will have to follow very closely the water schemes which are at present being prepared.

**PUBLIC CLEANSING.**—Further extensions in the collection of refuse have been made in the St. Ive Parish, the village of St. Ive having been given a monthly service. At Pensilva, the system of private contract has ended and an improved collection is made by the use of the Council's own vehicle.

The time has now arrived when a general refuse collection from all villages and hamlets in the district should be made. It is hoped that such a service will be discussed by the Council and possibly put into operation during 1946.

## **Public Health Officers of the Liskeard Rural District Council.**

Medical Officer of Health :—Dr. E. S. TOOGOOD, Golden Bank, Liskeard.

The following Medical Practitioners act as part-time District Medical Officers and/or Public Vaccinators.

Dr. A. G. Aitken	....	....	Callington.
Dr. M. Cooper	....	....	Looe.
Dr. W. H. King	....	....	Fowey.
Dr. A. Mc Cloy	....	....	Polperro.
Dr. B. B. Metcalfe	....	....	Liskeard.
Dr. O. R. Smale	....	....	Pensilva.

Sanitary Inspector	}	Mr. G. ROGERS, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.
Meat and Food Inspector		
Milk and Dairy Inspector		
Building Surveyor		

Assistant Sanitary Inspector	MR. G. O. COWLING.
Rodent Officer	MR. A. S. HOUGH.

## Statistics and Social Conditions.

Area of the District	....	....	104851 Acres.
Population (Registrar-General's Estimate)	....	....	13790
Number of Inhabited Houses at end of 1945, according to Rate Books	....	....	4534
Rateable Value of the District	....		£38258
Sum represented by a Penny Rate			£160

## Social Conditions.

Agriculture and Dairy Farming are the chief industries carried on in the District.

## Vital Statistics.

LIVE BIRTHS.		<i>Total.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>
Legitimate	... ..	209	111	98
Illegitimate	... ..	30	13	17
Birth rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population				17.3
Birth rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population of England and Wales				16.1
STILL BIRTHS.		<i>Total.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>
Legitimate	... ..	5	2	3
Illegitimate	... ..	1	0	1
Still birth rate per 1000 (live and still births)	... ..			20.4
DEATHS.		<i>Total.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>
		216	107	109
Death rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population				15.6
Death rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population of England and Wales				11.4

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES—*Nil.*

## MORTALITY OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE.

		<i>Total.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>
Legitimate	... ..	7	6	1
Illegitimate	... ..	4	3	1
Death rate of infants under 1 year of age—				
All infants per 1000 live births	... ..			46
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births	... ..			33.49
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births				133.3



	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0	0	0
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	0	0	0
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	3	3	0

## CAUSES OF DEATH.

*Male. Female.*

Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	1	0
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	...	...	...	...	...	2	3
Tuberculosis (Non-Respiratory)	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Cancer (all sites)	...	...	...	...	...	7	16
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	...	...	...	...	...	8	20
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	30	37
Other circulatory diseases	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	4	5
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	4	5
Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	...	3	2
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	1	0
Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	7	1
Premature birth	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Congenital malformation and birth injuries	...	...	...	...	...	3	0
Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	3	1
Road traffic accidents	...	...	...	...	...	1	0
Other violent causes	...	...	...	...	...	4	2
All other causes	...	...	...	...	...	19	9

**Birth-rates, Civilian Deaths, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1945. Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.**

\* Rates per 1000 Civilian Population :—

	<i>England and Wales.</i>	<i>126 C.B's. and Great Towns including London.</i>	<i>148 Smaller Towns. Resident Pop. 25,000— 50,000 at 1931 Census.</i>	<i>London Adm. County.</i>
Live Births	16.1†	19.1	19.2	15.7
Still Births	0.46‡	0.58	0.53	0.40
DEATHS :—				
All causes	11.4‡	13.5	12.3	13.8
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.02
Diphtheria	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01
Influenza	0.08	0.07	0.07	0.07
Smallpox	—	—	—	—
Measles	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01

Rates per 1000 Live Births :—

Deaths under 1 year of age	46†	54	43	53
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	5.6	7.8	4.5	7.6

Rates per 1000 Civilian Population :—

NOTIFICATIONS :—

Typhoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Paratyphoid Fever	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.06
Scarlet Fever	1.89	2.02	2.03	1.57
Whooping Cough	1.64	1.65	1.47	1.25
Diphtheria	0.46	0.52	0.56	0.31
Erysipelas	0.25	0.28	0.24	0.31
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	—	0.00
Measles	11.67	10.89	11.19	9.03
Pneumonia	0.87	1.03	0.72	0.78

\*A dash (—) signifies that there were no deaths.

†Per 1000 related births.

‡Rates per 1000 Total population.



# General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

## Public Health Officers of the Authority.

### (a) MEDICAL.

DR. E. S. TOOGOOD .... Medical Officer of Health.

The following Medical Practitioners act as part-time District Medical Officers and/or Public Vaccinators.

Dr. A. G. Aitken	....	....	Callington.
Dr. M. Cooper	....	....	Looe.
Dr. W. H. King	....	....	Fowey.
Dr. A. Mc Cloy	....	....	Polperro.
Dr. B. B. Metcalfe	...	....	Liskeard.
Dr. O. R. Smale	....	....	Pensilva.

Dr. E. Wordley, of Plymouth and Dr. Hocking, of Truro, undertake the Pathological Examination of Material submitted.

Dr. Walker, County Hall, Truro, is the County Tuberculosis Officer.

### (b) OTHERS.

Sanitary Inspector	}	Mr. G. ROGERS, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.
Meat and Food Inspector		
Milk and Dairy Inspector		
Building Surveyor		

Assistant Sanitary Inspector	MR. G. O. COWLING.
Rodent Officer	MR. A. S. HOUGH.

### **Public Analysts of Water.**

CHEMICAL. Messrs. Benedict Kitto & Sons, London.

BACTERIOLOGICAL. Messrs. Hehner & Cox, 10 Billiter Square, London.

#### **A. LABORATORY FACILITIES.**

No change has been made in the arrangements for the examination and analysis of Clinical Material Milk and Foodstuffs.

Milk and pathological examinations are carried out by Dr. E. Wordley, Plymouth.

Foodstuffs by the County Analyst.

#### **B. AMBULANCE FACILITIES.**

This service has been carried on by a very few loyal and enthusiastic members of the St. John Ambulance Association, and our thanks are due to them for their magnificent work during not only 1945, but the other war years. During the year under review, the Ambulance travelled 5,820 miles and removed 172 patients, of this number 22 were accident cases.

## Nursing in the Home.

### C. GENERAL AND MATERNITY.

Local Nursing Associations provide Nurses who are Certified Midwives in co-operation with the Cornwall County Council. Practically the whole of the Rural District is covered by these Local Associations.

Membership of a Local Association costs only a small sum each year. I recommend very strongly all those in the Rural District who are not already members to approach either the Nurse or Local Secretary.

It is with pleasure that I record the very excellent work carried out by the District Nurses in the area.

### INFECTIOUS.

The District Nurses are forbidden to undertake the Nursing of Infectious Diseases. When necessary, these are treated at the Isolation Hospital, Truro. Minor Infectious Diseases are treated at the County Council's Hospital at Newquay, when necessary.

### D. CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

No new Clinic or Treatment Centres have been opened in the Rural District during 1945.

### E. HOSPITALS.

**Public** :—The Public Assistance Hospital, situated in the Borough of Liskeard, receives cases from the Rural District of Liskeard and elsewhere.

**Voluntary** :—The Passmore Edwards Cottage Hospital, also situated in the Borough of Liskeard, has been used extensively by the inhabitants of the Rural District.

This Hospital contains 27 beds (12 General—8 female and 4 male), 5 private wards, 3 emergency beds and 7 cots.

164 cases were treated as In-Patients. 11 of these were treated free.

In the Out-Patients' department 231 Patients were dealt with. In addition there were 466 Out-



Patients attendances, dressings, electrical treatment and massage. There were 82 operations under anæsthetics, and 27 accident cases were admitted.

Under the Plymouth Voluntary Hospitals 1d. in the £ Scheme 73 In-Patients were treated in the Hospital occupying beds for 1,638 days; in addition there were 96 Out-Patients.

In the X-Ray department, excellent work continues to be done. The cases treated numbered 108.

### **Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.**

During the year, 390 cases of Infectious Diseases have been notified. Measles accounted for 243 of these and Whooping Cough for 103.

The County Isolation Hospital, at Truro, offers a very satisfactory treatment centre for the more serious Infectious Diseases.

The response to the National Campaign for Immunisation against diphtheria continues to be good, and there are comparatively few unprotected children in the Rural District.

Of the 4 cases of Diphtheria notified during the year, none had been immunised, and there was one death.

Eight cases of Tuberculosis were notified during the year, and there Seven Deaths from this Disease.

No case of Venereal Disease has been brought to my notice during the year.

### **Cancer.**

There were 23 deaths from Cancer during 1945, 7 Male and 16 Female. This is 10.610 of the total number of Deaths from all causes.

The nearest National Radium Centre is at the Prince of Wales Hospital, Plymouth, and arrangements for treatment are made by the medical attendant in charge of the case with a member of the consulting staff of the Prince of Wales Hospital.

### **Prevention of Blindness.**

No action has been necessary under Section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925, for the prevention of blindness, nor for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.

### **Tuberculosis.**

No action has been necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925 (relating to persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis employed in the Milk Trade) nor under Section 62 of the Public Health Act 1925 (relating to the compulsory removal to a hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis).

During 1945 there was no "non-notified" death from Tuberculosis.

The Notification of Tuberculosis in the area is thorough and satisfactory.

The County Tuberculosis Officer is always available for consultation with the doctor concerned. Pathological specimens are examined and a diagnostic X-ray plant is in use at Tehidy Sanitorium. The County Tuberculosis Officer attends regularly at Lamellion House, Liskeard, for the periodic survey of cases in the area.

I am, Gentleman,

Your obedient Servant,

E. S. TOOGOOD, M.A. OXON. M.R.C.S.,  
Medical Officer of Health.

Golden Bank, Liskeard.

366, City Road, London, E.C.1.  
17th May, 1945.

Liskeard Rural District Council.

Sirs,—We beg to state that we have examined the undermentioned Sample of WATER received from Mr. G. Rogers on the 14th instant, and find the following results, viz :—

**St. Cleer Village, Public Standpipe.**

Chlorine	...	...	...	1.2	grains per gallon.
Nitrogen (in nitrates)	...	...	...	0.035	" " "
Nitrogen (in nitrites)	...	...	...	absent	" " "
Ammonia, free	...	...	...	0.0011	" " "
Ammonia, albuminoid	...	...	...	0.0028	" " "
Oxygen absorbed from	} in 15 minutes	}	in 4 hours	0.002	" " "
permanganate at 80° F.			...	0.010	" " "
Total solid matter in solution	...	...	...	5.8	" " "
Solid matter reduced by ignition to :—	...	...	...	4.5	" " "
Hardness (in terms of Calcium Carbonate)	...	...	...	4.0	" " "
Poisonous metals (lead and copper)	...	...	...	absent	" " "
Appearance in 2 feet tube :—Clear after settlement overnight.					
Microscopic examination of sediment :—Ferruginous matter.					

In our opinion this is a good water organically. There is a little ferruginous matter in suspension derived probably from the action of the water on the pipes, as it is very soft with a faintly acid reaction.

BENEDICT KITTO & SONS.

The Laboratory, 10, Billiter Square,  
London, E.C.3.  
10th April, 1945.

ANALYSIS OF A SAMPLE OF  
RECEIVED ON  
MARKED

WATER.  
5th April, 1945.  
St. Cleer.

Total number of organisms growing on agar at 22° C.	...	...	...	75	per ml.
Total number of organisms growing on agar at 37° C.	...	...	...	12	"
Number of Coli-aerogenes bacteria per 100 ml.	...	...	...	none	
B. Welchii	...	...	...	none	
Streptococci	...	...	...	absent	
Free Chlorine	...	...	...	absent	

These are quite good results. The water is in a satisfactory condition bacteriologically.

G. ROGERS, ESQ., M.R.S.I.

H. E. COX, County Analyst.



366, City Road, London, E.C.1.  
9th April, 1945.

Liskeard Rural District Council.

Sirs,—We beg to state that we have examined the undermentioned Sample of WATER received from Mr. G. Rogers on the 5th instant, and find the following results, viz :—

<b>Public Standpipe, St. Neot.</b>					(Spring Water)
Chlorine	...	...	...	...	1.05 grains per gallon.
Nitrogen (in nitrates)	...	...	...	...	Traces
Nitrogen (in nitrites)	...	...	...	...	Absent
Ammonia, free	...	...	...	...	.0007
Ammonia, albuminoid	...	...	...	...	.0032
Oxygen absorbed from	in 15 minutes				.001
permanganate at 80° F.	in 4 hours				.005
Total solid matter in solution	...	...	...	...	4.0
Solid matter reduced by ignition to :—					2.6
Hardness (in terms of Calcium Carbonate)					2.5
Poisonous metals (lead and copper)	...	...	...	...	Absent.
Appearance in 2 feet tube :—	...	...	...	...	Good colour ; clear

From the above analysis we consider this water quite suitable for drinking and all other domestic purposes.

The water is very soft and has a slightly acid reaction.

BENEDICT KITTO & SONS.

The Laboratory, 10, Billiter Square,  
London, E.C.3.  
10th April, 1945.

ANALYSIS OF A SAMPLE OF  
RECEIVED ON  
MARKED

WATER.  
5th April, 1945.  
St. Neot.

Total number of organisms growing on agar at 22° C.	...	...	...	...	28 per ml.
Total number of organisms growing on agar at 37° C.	...	...	...	...	8 „ „
Number of Coli-aerogenes bacteria per 100 ml.	...	...	...	...	none
B. Welchii	...	...	...	...	none
Streptococci	...	...	...	...	absent
Free Chlorine	...	...	...	...	absent

These are quite good results. The water is in a satisfactory condition bacteriologically.

G. ROGERS, ESQ., M.R.S.I.

H. E. COX, County Analyst.











